

Transcript of Reagan Statement on Report of Strategic Forces Commission

Special to the New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 19 — Following is a White House transcript of a statement by President Reagan today on the report of the President's Commission on Strategic Forces:

Later today, I'll send a report to the Congress which endorses the recommendations of the bipartisan Commission on Strategic Forces and urges prompt Congressional action and support. This distinguished panel's recommendations are important for two reasons: The actions they propose will preserve stable deterrence and thus ensure the safety of our troops and solid incentives and credibility to our efforts to negotiate arms reductions that can put the way to a more secure and peaceful future.

On the 2nd of March, I spoke to the American people about our program for strengthening this nation's security and that of our allies and announced a long-term research effort to reduce the threat posed by nuclear ballistic missiles.

A week later in Los Angeles, I expanded our efforts to limit and reduce the danger through reliable, verifiable and stabilizing control agreements.

Both of these paths lead to a common goal: preventing conflict, reducing the risk of war and safeguarding the peace.

Basic Responsibility

Every American President has accepted this crucial objective as his most basic responsibility. But preserving the peace requires more than wishful thinking and vague intent. Collective international action is required to free the world from the spectre of nuclear conflict.

And that's why we will continue to work relentlessly to achieve nuclear stability and peace at all levels. Our words, policies and actions all make clear to the world our country's deeply held conviction that nuclear war on any scale would be a tragedy of unprecedented proportions.

Time and again, America has exercised unilateral restraint, good will and a sincere commitment to effective arms control. Unfortunately, these efforts have never reduced the danger of nuclear war. Over the past year, for example, the Soviets have deployed over 1,200 intercontinental ballistic missile warheads, more than the entire Peacekeeper program.

The history of American involvement in arms control shows us what we must do to do our work. The fact is that in the last one-sided restraint and good will failed to promote similar restraint and good will from the Soviet Union. They also failed to bring meaningful arms control. But history also teaches us that when the United States has shown the resolve to remain strong, stabilizing arms control can be achieved.

In the late 60's, we made a major ef-

fort to negotiate an antiballistic missile system. When the Soviet leadership demonstrated clear lack of interest, the Congress agreed to fund an antiballistic missile building program. And the result was predictable.

Treaty In Force

Once the Soviets knew we were going ahead, they came to the negotiating table and we negotiated a treaty. It was formally adopted and remains in force today.

Obviously, the best way to usher in a lasting peace is through negotiations. And this is the course that we've set. And if we demonstrate our resolve, it can lead to success.

It was against this background that I established a bipartisan Commission on Strategic Forces last January, and directed it to review the strategic programs of United States forces with regard to the threat and intent of Soviet ballistic missile systems and their basing.

A distinguished bipartisan panel of American experts served on the commission, and their advice and recommendations have performed a great service to their country, and we all owe them a debt of gratitude.

After reviewing the report, I met with the National Security Council. They endorsed the commission's recommendations as do all the members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. And so it is.

First, the commission urged us to continue the strategic modernization program which I announced in October of 1981. It reaffirms the need for research, testing, the past three years, the commission's direction of formal meetings and numerous discussions of our strategic forces and continuation of our bomber, submarine and cruise missile programs.

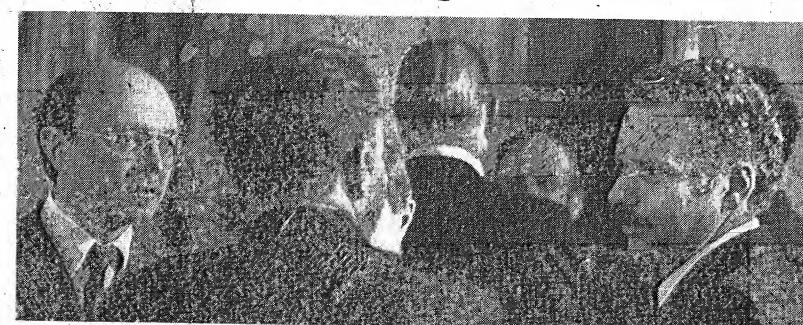
Second, the commission urges me to expand our ICBM forces. We should immediately proceed to develop and produce the Peacekeeper missile and deploy 100 in existing Minuteman silos at the Warner Air Force Base in Wyoming.

At the same time, the commission recommends that we begin engineering the design for a small, single-warhead missile and deploy 100 in existing Minuteman silos at the Warner Air Force Base in Wyoming.

As the commission's report concludes, "we must see ourselves in our specific solution to a part of this complex set of problems, but rather than a great national effort in the long-run task of preserving both peace and liberty for the world, a common perspective may finally be found."

Incidentally, this modernization program will save about \$1.5 billion in the next two years. The commission recommends major research efforts in strategic defense and a thorough program of hardening of ground-based missile systems more secure.

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The New York Times / Paul Hoeffel

Kenneth L. Adelman, right, designated head of Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, conferring with R. James Woolsey, left, member of President

Reagan's Commission on Strategic Forces, and Gen. Jerome F. O'Malley of Air Force, back to camera, as they waited for briefing by President.

has been a difficult and lengthy issue. The commission has completed its work and last week submitted its report to me. It was immediately released to the public, now, to the press.

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today and to move to a more stable peace in the future. To follow up on the commission's recommendations, I have asked Brent Scowcroft in his capacity as chairman to keep me closely advised as this issue moves forward, particularly as it relates to arms control.

An important aspect

that adds up to an important incentive for both arms control and deterrence, for peace and security now and far into the future. Finally, the commission endorses the need for armistice arms control, particularly command, control and communications of our strategic forces and continuation of our bomber, submarine and cruise missile programs.

These are the principal objectives of our arms control proposals on the table in Geneva. These are — I want to reemphasize that we're in Geneva seeking equitable, reliable agreements that would bring real reductions.

So the task before us is to demonstrate our resolve, our national will and our good faith. That's absolutely essential for achieving an effective deterrent and for achieving successful arms reductions. Make no mistake, unless we modernize our strategic missile systems, the Soviet Union has no real reason to negotiate meaningful reductions. If we fail to act, we cannot reasonably expect an acceptable outcome in our arms control negotiations. And we will be in a less than deterrent posture that has preserved the peace for more than a generation.

Therefore, I urge the Congress to

join me now in supporting this bipartisan program to pursue arms control agreements that promote stability to meet the needs of our ICBM force

looks at our previous positions.

But despite the wide range of views these groups have held in the past, we now have a program that has our unanimous support. So I urge the Congress and the American people for this consensus will unite us in our common search for ways to reduce the risk of war, and ultimately reduce the level of nuclear weapons. We can no longer afford to delay. The time to act is now.

I thank you very much for being here, and again I thank the commission for their fine work.

Scowcroft Panel Favored Old Silos

Special to the New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 19 — The commission headed by Brent Scowcroft, recommended to the President that he endorse today for deployment of 100 MX missiles in existing Minuteman silos.

In its report April 11, the commission argued that this would support negotiations for arms control, resolve an imbalance with the Soviet Union and modernize the force of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The commission also said: "The vulnerability of such sites in the near term, viewed in isolation, is not a sufficiently dominant part of the overall problem of ICBM modernization to warrant other immediate steps being taken."

The commission also recommended that a small missile of 15 tons with a single warhead be designed, developed and deployed in the 1990's to supplement the 100-ton MX with its 10 warheads. The commission argued that the smaller missiles would be more flexible and less vulnerable.

In its third major recommendation, the commission urged the President to couch future arms reduction offers "not in terms of launches but in terms of equal levels of warheads of roughly equivalent yield."

The commission suggested that the President should maintain a position in nuclear forces in which "each side is encouraged to see the survivability of its own forces in a way that does not threaten the other."

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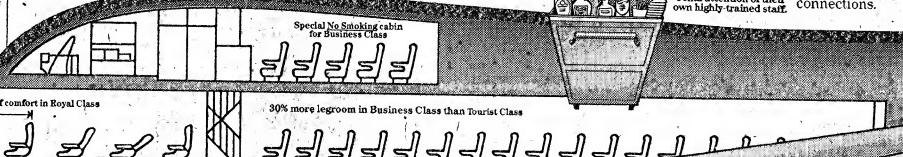
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Budget Tie-Up: Reagan at the Crossroads

By STEVEN R. WEISMAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 19 — Although there has been little publicity about the budget at the White House lately, President Reagan is approaching what his aides say is a turning point that seems likely to shape the character of his Presidency through the 1984 election.

News The decision Mr. Reagan and his team face is whether to involve himself fully in the effort to reach a budget deal or let it play out in the Republican-controlled Senate. The Senate Budget Committee has bogged down in disagreement over possible tax increases and other steps to close the gaping Federal deficit in the budget.

Realistically, in the view of the White House, the President's impending decision comes down to whether he is prepared to give his blessings to an even more budget compromise than might be better than what he could get otherwise but is still far from his liking.

Congressional experts agree that any eventual deal on the budget would have to contain more domestic spending, less military spending and more taxes than Mr. Reagan had said he could tolerate.

A Tough Judgment Call

The question is whether the President can go to a budget deal without calling for supporting new tax increases and other distasteful items. "Is the game worth the candle?" a White House official asked. "It's a tough judgment call."

Today the White House reaffirmed Mr. Reagan's general commitment to trying to break the budget stalemate. Earlier news reports said key aides were urging him to walk away from it.

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger was quoted as advising the President at a Cabinet meeting to let the drive for a budget resolution fall by the wayside and then veto or sign indi-

vidual appropriation bills as the year progresses.

The White House signaled the President's eagerness to help break the budget impasse. But Administration aides agreed privately that Mr. Reagan had not taken the steps to move that effort along, and that this had damaged many of his allies in the Senate.

Recovery Linked to Deficit

The problem Mr. Reagan faces is the same one that plagued his predecessor when he was first urged by Congressional allies to scale back on key elements of his economic program to get the Federal deficit under control.

There is a new backdrop to Mr. Rea-

gan's problem: the view that the economic recovery, which was apparently begun in January, of states of mind could weaken and die if nothing is done to lower the deficit.

In addition, the White House feels that the differences in Congress on how to approach the deficit problem are far greater than those in the past. Republicans are more independent of the White House, and Democrats, with a stronger hand because of last year's election results, are better able to press their agenda.

This was the warning this week by David A. Stockman, director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Even by Mr. Stockman's standards,

the warning was apocalyptic in tone and seems to have jolted some White House who later said they had been complacent in thinking that the economic recovery would solve all of the Administration's budget problems.

Sees Reagan 'Revolution' in Peril

Mr. Stockman warned that the Reagan "revolution," as well as the economic recovery itself, might be lost as a result of the budget stalemate. In the absence of new legislation, Congress is unlikely to enact new savings, he said, there will be deficits in excess of \$200 billion "as far as the eye can see."

The Congressional budget process has been in existence only since 1974, and its critics are legion. The President and his supporters of bipartisanship, however, feel that the process is working well.

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nevertheless, the process is sacred to Mr. Stockman, and he believes the budget process requires Congress to set overall targets for large categories of spending and revenue, and then to meet those targets in the ensuing months.

The process also gives Congress a vehicle, known as "reconciliation," in which it can bring together a legislative package aimed at reducing the budget reductions embodied in the original budget resolution. The omnibus reconciliation act produced Mr. Reagan's greatest budget victories in the last two years.

Specific Savings Cited

Today Mr. Stockman is warning that if the President does not compromise on the budget, the nation will not be able to get the specific savings amounts through the reconciliation procedure.

A document distributed by Mr. Stock-

man at the Cabinet meeting Monday cited three areas of savings that could be lost if the budget process were ignored. They are Civil Service retirement programs, Medicaid and Medicare, and welfare, food stamps, child nutrition and other benefits for poor people.

Mr. Reagan has proposed \$8 billion in cuts in these areas for 1984 alone. The Democratic-controlled House has gone on record against almost all of the cuts, and Republicans are wondering whether they have reached the threshold of public acceptability for the cuts.

In the view of many of his allies, the President's only hope of getting Republicans to fight for the savings is for the White House to yield in other areas, such as taxation and military spending. The feeling is that if the budget process collapses, there will be no hope to control the deficits.

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ERRORS ARE CITED IN MURDER HEARING

Virginia Attorney General Asks Death Sentence Be Lifted

Special to The New York Times
RICHMOND, Va., April 19 — In an unusual admission of errors in a capital murder case, the Virginia Attorney General's office has asked a Circuit Court judge in Alexandria to vacate the death sentence of a convicted murderer.

Assistant Attorney General Jerry P. Slonaker made the request in a letter to the judge, Wiley R. Wright Jr. In the letter, dated April 12, Mr. Slonaker said the young man condemned to death, Albert Lee Evans, had been executed because records of Mr. Evans' criminal past that were "seriously misleading and/or defective."

Mr. Evans was sentenced by Judge Wright on June 19, 1981, for the fatal shooting of Deputy William Truesdale in an attempt to escape from the Alexandria city jail. Mr. Evans, from Raleigh, N.C., had been brought to Alexandria to testify as a state witness in a criminal case.

After the death sentence, Mr. Evans was sent to join 18 other death row inmates at Virginia's Mecklenburg Correctional Center. In April 1982, a week before Mr. Evans was to be electrocuted, Mr. Evans telephoned the American Civil Liberties Union in Richmond and asked for help.

Two Days Before Execution
Chan Kendrick, Virginia director of the A.C.L.U., sought the volunteer aid of an Alexandria criminal lawyer, Jonathan Shapiro. "I didn't want to get involved," Mr. Shapiro said in an interview. "But I agreed to help and I just got deeper and deeper into it all the time before I knew it was Evans's lawyer."

Mr. Shapiro filed a petition with the court to block Mr. Evans's execution. Two days before Mr. Evans was scheduled to die, he accepted it.

Mr. Shapiro's research found that the jury in the case had been told of four past convictions in North Carolina in which Mr. Evans had no lawyer. Such convictions have been held inadmissible to a sentencing hearing since 1980.

It was also found that North Carolina prosecutors had dropped an assault charge against Mr. Evans that was presented to the Alexandria jury as a conviction.

The jury examined Mr. Evans's past violations in an effort to determine the likelihood that he might cause harm in the future, which is a factor in deciding on a possible death sentence.

Next Move Up to Judge
The Attorney General's action leaves the next move up to Judge Wright.

Judge Wright does not vacate the sentence. Mr. Evans's lawyers could file an appeal in Federal court.

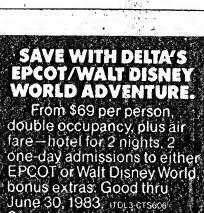
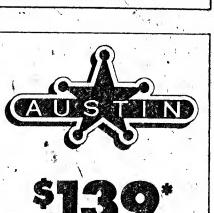
In his letter to the judge detailing the sentencing errors in the case, Mr. Slonaker wrote that, "in the interest of justice, the state was 'constrained to concede that Wilbert Evans's current death sentence cannot be sustained' on appeal."

If the judge vacates the sentence, the Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney, John Klock, will have to decide whether to let a second jury consider whether Mr. Evans should die or get life in prison.

Governor Refuses Clemency

MONTGOMERY, Md., April 19 (AP) — John Lewis Evans, a condemned murderer who is scheduled to be electrocuted early Friday, told prison officials today that his lawyers would appeal to block the execution.

The lawyer, Gov. George C. Wallace refused to grant clemency to Mr. Evans, 33 years old, who was sentenced to die for a slaying committed in a pawn shop holdup in 1977.



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